

## On the name of a race of *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* (Stanley)

by P. A. CLANCEY

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In most recent discussions in the periodic literature on the subspecies of the Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* (Stanley) of Ethiopian Africa, the name *Buphagus erythrorhynchus caffer* Grote, 1927: Palala R., border of Waterberg and Potgietersrus districts, Transvaal, has been used for the populations which range from the Republic of South Africa, northwards through the interior of the continent to northern Tanzania and Kenya. The fact that *caffer* is antedated by the much earlier *Buphaga Africanoides* A. Smith, 1831: Natal (*vide South African Quarterly Journal*, No. V, October, 1831, p. 12) seems to have been overlooked hitherto by workers.

There is no doubt that Smith's *B. Africanoides* is correctly applied to this species of oxpecker, as the original description is diagnostic. The bill is described as being between crimson and scarlet in colour, the legs and toes as black, and the eye-wattles as yellow. Smith comments that it "inhabits the country about Natal, and is commonly seen picking insects from the backs of cattle".

## The Olive Weaver-finch, *Nesocharis ansorgei ansorgei* in Uganda

by HERBERT FRIEDMANN

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In the course of an extensive survey of the animal life of the isolated forests of western Uganda, under a National Science Foundation grant (GB-5107) a few weeks were spent in the Sango Bay area, on the west shore of Lake Victoria. Among the birds collected there were specimens of *Nesocharis ansorgei* (Hartert). The nominate race of this little bird had been recorded earlier from a few localities in Toro Province, western Uganda [Wimi River (type locality), the Bugarama Valley and Hakitengya in Bwamba, and the Mpanga (Kibale) and Kibera (upper Kibale) forests]; in Rwanda (Akanyaru River), and the eastern Congo, from the eastern Ituri (Kilo and Irumu) south to the Rutshuru Plains, and to the Kivu District (Idjwi Island in Lake Kivu, Luofu, south of Katana, and Tshibati). Its entire range thus appears to lie within an area of not much over four degrees of latitude (from 1° 50' N. to about 2° 30' S.) and less than two degrees of longitude (from about 28° 40' E. to 30° E.), at altitudes of from 3,000 to 6,500 feet.

Because of the compact nature of its limited range it is surprising to find now that this bird also has a remote and completely isolated population far to the east, and involving a geographical discontinuity of some 170 miles. Three examples, two males, one female, all in non-breeding condition, of the Olive Weaver-finch were collected in the Malabigambo Forest, Sango Bay, 40 miles south of Masaka, on the west shore of Lake Victoria, on 30th and 31st January, 1968. This locality, at an elevation of 3,800 feet, is approximately 170 miles east of the nearest part of the previously known range of the species.